
Diane Marshall <mars06074@cox.net>

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AppTestimony

Community Investment Act Diversion of Funds Testimony

It is understood that the "Governor's Deficiency Bill" (**Section 5 of HB 6825**) proposed an immediate sweep of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act (CIA) funds including \$10 million from DEEP's open space grants program for this year. This cut could put funding in jeopardy for DEEP to be able to give open space grants to land trusts and municipalities over the next 2 years.

The damage from this sweep proposed in the Deficiency Bill would be further magnified by the current Governor's Budget proposal (**SB 946, Section 29(b)**) which proposes a complete sweep of all CIA funds from January 1, 2016 through the end of the current budget cycle on June 30, 2017.

I strongly OPPOSE the diversion of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act as proposed in HB 6825. Open Space in Connecticut is too rapidly shrinking! It is critical to have the ability to preserve our limited Open Space for our children and grandchildren to explore and enjoy the beauty of the State. Protected open space provides us recreational opportunities, supports our wildlife population, and gives us places to "recharge" when needed.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

**William H. Marshall, III
145 Rockledge Drive
South Windsor, CT 06074**